The declaration of Old Havana as a World Heritage area and plans for its conservation have been an important part of building Cuba’s consciousness of its heritage. The new focus on restoration of the city has had a profound social and cultural effect on its people. This talk deals with questions of heritage and the challenges that the revitalisation of the Historic Centre of Havana poses for the future.

Dr. Alfonso López is currently the Vice-Chancellor of the University of San Gerónimo in Havana and holds a senior position in the Office of the Historiador of Old Havana. He is a respected academic and historian, with a focus on cultural history, the development of culture through sport and the restoration and preservation of historic centres. He has published a range of books and articles on Cuban culture and history and has lectured throughout Latin America and Europe. He holds positions on various organisations including the Writers and Artists Union of Cuba, the Cuban National Monuments Commission and the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Historians and has received a number of professional awards in Cuba for his work.

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